



Why Regular Attendance is so important:

Learning:

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence seriously affects their learning. Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring your child's regular attendance at the school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from the school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Safeguarding:

Your child may be at risk of harm if they do not attend the school regularly. Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within the context of this school, promoting the welfare and life opportunities for your child encompasses:

- Attendance
- Behaviour Management
- Health and Safety
- Access to the Curriculum
- Anti-bullying

Failing to attend the school on a regular basis will be considered as a safeguarding matter.

Understanding types of absence:

Every half-day absence from the school has to be classified by the school (not by the parents), as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of an absence is always required. Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from the school for a good reason like genuine illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no "leave" has been given. This type of absence can lead to the school and/or the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This includes:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Children who arrive at school too late to get a mark
- Holidays in term time.

Medical Illness:

If your child feels ill in the morning please provide them with appropriate pain relief/medication and send them to school. Any medication to be administered during the school day should be handed in to the school office, alongside signed consent.

Your child should be in school if they have a minor illness such as a headache, cold or sore throat. (Refer to Medicines Policy).

If your child is too ill to attend, then please ring the school office to notify school of any absence.

Please ensure that your child returns to the school as soon as possible.

Medical Appointments:

A full day's absence will not be authorised for a medical appointment. Please arrange all appointments outside the school day. If the appointment is unavoidable, your child must come to school before and after the appointment.

Is my child too ill for school?

Illness	NHS Guidance	NHS
Coughs and colds	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.	
High Temperature	If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.	
Chickenpox	If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
Cold Sore	There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore.	
Conjunctivitis	You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis.	
Covid-19	If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school	
Ear Infection	If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.	
Hand, foot and mouth disease	If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.	
Head lice and nits	There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.	
Impetigo	If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.	
Measles	If your child has measles, they'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears.	
Ringworm	If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	
Scarlet fever	If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	
Slapped cheek syndrome	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	
Sore throat	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.	
Threadworms	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).	

Information from <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>